

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

72

SEVENTY SECOND REPORT

[Action Taken by Government to the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)] on delay in laying of the Annual Reports of the Port Blair Municipal Council(PBMC), Port Blair)

(Presented on 17 December, 2021)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2021/ Agrahan 1943(Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq
3. Shri Margani Bharat
4. Dr. A. Chella kumar
5. Shri Pallab Lochan Das
6. Shri Chowdhury Mohan Jatua
7. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
8. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
9. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
10. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
11. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
12. Shri T.N. Prathapan
13. Shri S. Ramalingam
14. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka
15. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Smt.B. Visala - Director
3. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
4. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary
5. Shri K P Kashyap - Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Seventy Second Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.

2. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 13 December, 2021.
3. For facility of reference, observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
December, 2021
Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

I
REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC), Port Blair, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.09.2020.

2. The Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the recommendations/observations contained in the aforesaid report. Accordingly, the statement showing the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirtieth Report are given in Appendix.

3. **The Committee in their Thirtieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) had pointed out the failure of the Ministry of Home Affairs in timely laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Organisation since the year 2006-2007 and recommended that the documents of the PBMC should be laid within the stipulated time in future.**

4. **The Committee appreciate that the Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Committee made in the said report and has also taken steps for their implementation. The Committee are, however, constrained to note that the documents for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 which were required to be laid on the Table of the House within nine months from the closure of the respective financial year have not been laid as yet, despite Committee's directions/recommendations in the aforesaid report. While taking a serious note in the matter, the Committee strongly expect the Government to make concerted efforts to ensure timely laying of the documents of the PBMC in future.**

New Delhi

13 December, 2021
22 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

Ritesh Pandey
Chairperson
Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

(Vide Para 2 of the Report)

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION CONTAINED IN THIS THIRTIETH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.**Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair**

(Recommendation Serial No. 13)

The Committee note with utter dismay that there has been excessive delay in laying of Annual Reports and Audit Accounts of Port Blair Municipal Council since the year 2006-2007. The Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the PBMC for the accounting years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 were laid on the Table of the House with delay approximately ranging from 6 to 7 years.

Reply of the Government

The point is noted and all efforts are underway to prevent recurrence of delay in the tabling of Annual reports & Audited Accounts. As of now, Audited Accounts along with the delay statement have already been laid on table of House for the period 2008-2018. For the past period i.e 2007-08 to 2017-2018, Annual reports are being prepared but scarcity of the documentation is affecting this effort.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 14)

The Committee were apprised that the cumulative factors such as not having required capacity in Accounts Department of the PBMC, Non availability of Hindi Translator, voluminous back-log of the work taken up in phased manner and Delay in entrustment of Audit to C& AG had been responsible for delay caused in timely laying of the documents. The committee, however, note that there have been undue delays at several stages which could have been very well avoided. There was already a delay of more than two years when PBMC first approached C&AG on 23.07.2010, after compilation of accounts for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 on 30.06.2010 and 31.08.2010 respectively. Had proper planning and prompt monitoring been done, there would not have been the backlogs for the past many years i.e. from 1990-91 onwards, due to which the compilation of accounts had to be taken up in a phased manner. The Ministry of the Home Affairs and PBMC apparently failed in managing the situation. The Committee note with displeasure that due to expiry of the Entrustment of Audit by C&AG in 2005-06, the same had to be taken up afresh on 12.08.2010 by the Council which was communicated by the Ministry of Finance on 07.03.2013, and this caused considerable delay in laying of the documents.

Reply of the Government

The delay caused in the past is regretted. All efforts are underway to prevent recurrence of further delay. Annual calendar for finalizing accounts has been adopted & is being followed at present.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 15)

The Committee take note that subsequently, Ministry has laid Audited Accounts of PBMC along with the delay statement for the years 2008-09 to 2013-14, 2014-15 and that for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 in House on 08.08.2017, 19.12.2017 and 26.7.2019 respectively. However, the Audited Accounts for the year 2017-18 have been laid on the Table of the House on 04.02.2020 with delay of 13 Months and documents for the year 2018-19 have not been laid on the Table of the House as yet. The delay for these accounting years is as huge as that of 13 to 91 months. Further, the Annual Reports for the accounting years from 2008-09 to 2018-19 have not yet been laid despite of the committee emphasizing time and again that both the annual Reports and Audited Accounts of an Organization should be laid on the Table of the House simultaneously so as to enable the Members of Parliament to get a complete picture of the Government allocations, utilization thereof and activities of the Organization. The Committee are disappointed to note that the Ministry of Home affairs has failed to comply even with the specific recommendations of the Committee.

Reply of the Government

Audited Accounts along with the delay statement have been laid on the table of the House for the period 2008-2018. The audit for the accounts for financial year 2018-19 is over and report is awaited from office of C&AG. The same shall be placed on the table of the House along with the annual report as soon as it is received. All efforts are underway to prevent recurrence of further delay. For the past period i.e 2007-08 to 2017-2018, Annual reports are being prepared but scarcity of the documentation is affecting this effort.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 16)

The Committee also note that PBMC is in process of switching over to Double Entry Accounting System for streamlining the accounting process and hope that by now the computerization process would have been completed and that there would be no further delay in accounting process in future.

Reply of the Government

PBMC has implemented Double Entry Accounting system successfully. Further in order to streamline accounting process Tally on CLOUD has been implemented with integrated ePayment solution. Delays in the accounting process shall be avoided with these interventions.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 17)

The Committee also note that the PBMC has prepared Calendar for completion of its various activities so as to ensure timely submission of its documents for laying on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament to avoid delay in laying in the future. The Committee directs that the said timeline for completion of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts is strictly adhered to, to avoid any further delay.

Reply of the Government

Point noted. The calendar/timelines shall be strictly adhered to.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 18)

The committee further note that there is no specific provision in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Board) Regulation, 1957, regarding laying of Audited Accounts and Annual Reports on the table of the House. A suitable provision in the Act is considered desirable to bring about certainty in the position.

Reply of the Government

Point noted. Proposal for incorporating the specific provision shall be moved.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

(Recommendation Serial No. 19)

The Committee also impress upon the Ministry that if due to unavoidable reasons, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of PBMC could not be laid on the Table of the House within the stipulated time; a statement explaining the reasons as to why the requisite documents could not be laid within prescribed period should be laid on the Table of the House within 30 days or as soon as the House meets, whichever is later.

Reply of the Government

Point noted.

(Ministry of Home Affairs O.M No U-16016/4/2017-ANL Dated 31.03.2021)

**THE EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
(2021-2022)**

The Committee sat on Monday, 13th December, 2021 from 1500 hours to 1630 hours in Committee Room "C", Parliament House Annexe , New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Ritesh Pandey - **Chairperson**

MEMBERS

2. Shri PallabLochan Das
3. Choudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser
4. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
5. Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Munish Kumar Rewari - Additional Director
3. Smt. Manjinder Pubbi - Under Secretary

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2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.
3. Thereafter, the Committee took up the Ten (10) draft Reports/Action Taken Reports regarding the delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the following organisation for the consideration :-
 - i. Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL), Noida;
 - ii. National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida;
 - iii. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi;
 - iv. Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA), Delhi;
 - v. Food Corporation of India, New Delhi;
 - vi. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi;
 - vii. V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida;
 - viii. Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) Authority; Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) Authority; Kandla Special Economic Zone (KSEZ) Authority; and Madras Special Economic Zone (MEPZ) Authority.;
 - ix) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in the Thirtieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Port Blair Municipal Corporation (PBMC), Port Blair; and
 - x) Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations made by the Committee in the Thirty First Report (17th Lok Sabha) regarding the delays in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi.
4. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the all Ten (10) draft Reports/Action Taken Reports without modifications.
- .5 The Committee authorized the Hon'ble Chairperson to present these Reports to the Parliament

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The Committee then adjourned.